

27 May 1946
D Day minus 37

Dear Ones,

This morning is rainy and dreary - appropriate. I saw the Regimental Commander and then I went up to ASFTC Headquarters to see Colonel Herbert J Lawes himself. I argued my case as well as I could in a well-modulated voice - but since I will have spoken to you on the phone by the time you receive this I don't have to add that there was no result in my favor. I am hoping that the afternoon mail will bring in last weeks accumulation so that I can read your opinions before I talk to you tonight.

Right now I feel a little whipped - in the back of my mind, I had allowed myself a little hope that Lawes would be receptive. For my part, as of now I have exhausted my possibilities - anything further you will do on your initiatives; you understand why I repeat that point, of course. On the phone tonight I will try to cover the salient points that any action you take should cover: a letter from Brewster or Hale or who have you to the CO here carries little or no weight - around a camp like this letters from politicians are a dime a dozen - the key is to have real action taken and followed through in Washington. If the decision is left to the Headquarters here I don't think that I stand a chance.... well, we shall see.... my attitude right now is that I will submit all the necessary data to Harvard, but I am not counting on anything.....

Your letter of the 22nd sneaked into me today, Daddy. I have been toying with the idea of going to Boston this weekend but a more logical scheme would seem to be to wait until I had something definite one way or the other so that I could go to Harvard knowing my status definitely for the purpose of making my plans. You see, it will take a written permission for me to get off Saturday morning and if I get one, it is unlikely that I could get another within a month.... so I may let the long trip to Boston go for a while..

I'll keep this letter open until I see what the PM mail brings.

2 letters - both dated the 23rd, Daddy. I have the pictures; I am glad you got the Bill of Lading at least that is an encouraging sign - I'll be looking for word of the long awaited arrival. It has occurred to me that the danger of Mildew is pretty great during the ocean crossing and extended storage in warmer areas. The other letter brought the insurance pamphlet - just what I want. I agree with you, Daddy - a twenty payment life seems like the logical policy. Since I started my insurance at 19, the rate would be an annual premium of \$228.50 on \$10,000 - which I figure to be a total premium of \$4,570.00... of that I have been paying \$6.50 a month for 38 months which comes to some \$247.80 to convert, I would have to pay a lump sum of \$685.50 minus \$247.00 or \$438.50 to bring me up to date as of March 11, 1946; that is, three years of the policy premiums paid. It seems to me that this is my best bet... granted 228.50 a year is a lot of money, I think it is worth it - in 20 years, my investment is doubled in its value as life insurance. That will give me a healthy backlog of life insurance and I can plan on endowments and other types of policies after Law School or when I can begin to plan in terms of my own earned income. Now I want to get something equally clarifying on the current Reserve policy for officers and my two big questions upon discharge will be answered.

That about does it for now - I want to go up and call you and do my other errands --

All my love,

Regards to Doris.

Remember in writing to me:
the 8th by is the important part of my address.

Sumner